

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2026

A video of this meeting is available at: <https://youtu.be/TvThy77fmYY>

Meeting called to order at: 7:01 pm.

Members present

Lynn Edwards, (Co-Chair), Rolando Park, <i>online</i>	Amertah Perman - Oak
Bettina Rausa, (Co-Chair), Redwood Village	Emily Perez, Rolando
Sonia Lang, (Vice Chair), Rolando Park, <i>online</i>	Kim Nguyen, Rolando
Jim Westheimer, (Secretary), El Cerrito	Jessica Arreguin, Webster
John Hogan, (Treasurer), Redwood Village	Joseph Yorty, Business Owner (Webster)
Richard Diaz, Oak Park	

Absent: Jen Eastman, Webster; Valerie Inge, Member-at-Large (Webster)

Quorum: Yes

Chair's Welcome

Bettina welcomed the board members and the public.

Adoption of Agenda or Agenda Changes

- In his capacity as Secretary, Jim made a motion to add an agenda action item in order to address the monthly minutes note-taking schedule going forward. Emily seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.
- No other changes to agenda.

Communication from the Public on Non-Agenda Item

- Becky Rapp – urged members to have the city of San Diego more vigorously enforce already existing laws banning the city the sale of kratom, flavored smoke extracts and other substances in the over 200 smoke shops. The city should follow the example of Oceanside with an active enforcement of the bans. Such a policy could be a good source of revenue as every violation can be assessed a \$500.00 fine so that with active enforcement millions of dollars could be collected and help balance the budget.
- Naiyali Cruz of Groundwork San Diego – announced that the organization will be hosting a free summer camp of kids at Chollas Mead Elementary School. She brought flyers with details as well packets of cilantro seeds for distribution.
- Jan Hintzman of Friends of the College Rolando Library – said that the property adjacent to the library had been acquired by multi-family housing developer – Dinerstein Companies – and that within two weeks would begin work on sewer upgrades that would necessitate the closure of main entrance to the library on Montezuma Road – putting even more pressure on the chronic library access and parking problems. Jan estimates that if construction moves forward there at least two years of disruptions. The organization plans to remain vigilant and keep the community informed. Bettina encouraged Jan to make a formal presentation as an agenda item at future EACPC meeting.

- John Hogan – commented on the declining attendance of elected representatives – city, county, and state – at the EACPC meetings, which he construed as lack of concern for community input and wondered how the board could reverse the trend. Bettina suggested it could be made a formal agenda item at the next meeting.
- Lynn Edwards – announced the City Council had just finalized the next year’s budget this afternoon after a series of marathon sessions and opined that could be the reason why there so few representatives at this meeting.
- Bettina – on behalf of absent board member Jen Eastman – announced that there will be press conference June 23 at 47t St & Fairmount concerning the proposed Fairmount Fire Station. District 4 has come out in opposition to the project for environmental reasons and for the City’s lack of transparency taken in selecting the location. Residents, especially those within District 4, are urged to attend to shown their opposition to the proposed location.

City, County, and State Representatives’ Reports

- Bruce Williams and Tiffany Harrison for Webster and Oak Park, District 4, Councilmember Henry Foster III
 - Announced the ribbon cutting ceremony for updated MLK Pool on Skyline Dr renovated for first time in 60 years and made possible by a \$850,000 state provided grant.
 - Encanto Music Festival set for July 12th and encouraged community groups to set up tables. Good opportunity to recruit members to get involve in the community.
 - Provided flyers announcing the details the Juneteenth celebration at Chollas Lake Park June 13th.
 - Tiffany shared the restoration of funds of interest to the community that were formalized in City budget approved earlier today. Among those restorations are Child & Youth Success Program Coordinator position, arts and culture funding including about \$900,000 discretionary funding for District 4, Small Business Enhancement Program designed to improve store fronts. In the May budget revision funds were restored for parks and libraries in Districts 4, 8, and 9. In addition, the County provided funds for Black arts and cultures including \$400,000 for placemaking project.
- Anisa Mohamed – Community Representative for District 9, Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera
 - Reported that the Transportation Department has been catching up on the Get It Done backlog of pothole repair District 9 with 77 patches alone made in last week primarily on Loma Alta Dr., Winona Ave and Orange Ave. Encouraged community to continue to report through the app.
 - Rolando Park and Redwood Village have a clean-up project scheduled for this Saturday June 13.
 - Dumpster collection planned for November.

Information and Action Items

Information Item: City-provided Residential Solid Waste Management Services Program Updates – Rosa Elena, Environmental Services Dept. Community Development Specialist

Provided slide presentation and commentary of the roll-out the trash collection and recycling program pursuant to the passage of Measure V in 2022 permitting the city to assess fees on the approximately 225,000 eligible residences for services previously paid in full through the general fund.

Some highlights:

- Reported the progress of the roll-out of the replacement of the old black trash bins and dark blue recycling containers with the new encoded grey and light blue bins.
- Provided details as to how low-income residents can apply for financial assistance for paying for the newly accessed fees. Residents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible before the limited pool of funds is exhausted.
- The revised reduced fee schedule will take effect July 1, 2027
- Discussed how to report to the department collection problems, obtaining additional or properly-sized containers.

Information and Action Item: EACPC CIP (Capital Improvement Program) Check in – Lynn.

Lynn summarized the CIP submission process and timeline for planning groups

- Encouraged members to respond to the surveys for their respective communities so that they will be available for submission to City Planning in July.
- Bettina encouraged members to utilize Lynn as expert resource in the process. She is more than willing to try to answer any questions.
- Discussed what does and does not constitute a CIP project – think in terms of long-range planning, infrastructure improvements, and requiring specific budgets – i.e., community library, pocket parks, sidewalk extensions, etc.

Information and Action Item: Recommend/not recommend submitting a letter of support to the Parks and Recreation Department for a curfew at Colina Park – Lynn and Bettina.

- The SDPD Community Service Officer (Joshua Cummings) recommended the implementation of a curfew as an additional means of curbing the violence, vandalism, untoward behavior at the park and urged all community groups affected to submit letters in support to City Council and Parks & Rec Dept.
- Extended discussion of merits and limitations of having a curfew with most board members making contributions.
- Jim made motion to consider the letter. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0.

Information and Action Item: Recommend/not recommend submission of EACPC Annual Report – Lynn.

- After discussion of the process of the submission of the demographic profile of the members as required in Annual Report, Lynn suggested the motion be tabled until the July meeting in order to give her time to properly organize the data.
- Sonia made the motion to table the item. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously 11-0-0.

Information and Action Item: Added agenda item – establish minutes note-taking schedule. Jim as Secretary responsible for the minutes proposed sharing the responsibility for balance of the year.

- Jim assumed responsibility for completion every other month including this meeting (June), August, October, and December. He asked for volunteers for other months. Accordingly,
 - Joe volunteered for July
 - Jessica volunteered for September
 - John volunteered for November.

Jim will be responsible for making any corrections.

Bettina said the schedule will be revisited in January 2027.

Review, Correction, and Approval of Minutes

(May – Emily)

- Lynn pointed to one spelling mistake of name. Correction made.
- Amertah made to motion to approve the May minutes with one correction. Sonia seconded.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- Community updates
 - El Cerrito – no report
 - Oak Park – Richard:
 - Groundbreaking for the new Oak Park Library was held May 15 (*actually held May 14*) with a good turnout including a number of local politicians.
 - Next phase of business for library is a naming process if the library decides. Suggested the process could be opened up to all groups serving the Eastern Area to make their recommendations. Another possibility is having a name attached to wings within the library.
 - Redwood Village – John
 - Small group of community members – Groundwork was represented – got together to start to generate momentum toward creation a pocket park on city-owned land at 60th and University. Possible funding resources were discussed.
 - Clean-up campaign set for Sat June at 60th and University – donuts will be served.
 - Rolando – Emily
 - Celebration of Rolando's 100th birthday with an Ice Cream Social on June 16th 6pm at the UDW Hall
 - The annual 4th of July Bike Parade at 10 am starting at corner
 - Rolando Park – Lynn
 - Held annual Ice Cream Social June 8th with largest turnout ever – over 90 people in attendance
 - Webster – Joseph and Jessica
 - Held a community get together at the Joe's coffee with Rachel Nafis of Salter Farms providing flowers for kinds, good turnout with Webster Elementary representative as well as the SDPD Community Relations Officer Denise Martinez.
- Mid-City Plan Update – Lynn
 - Shared slide of tentative schedule through early 2027
 - City Planning with present first draft to the planning group in early September. Focus groups have been given additional time to coordinate responses among the planning groups.
 - Lynn will provide further details in the months ahead.
- Parks & Recreation – Daniele Laman
 - Requested that Anisa Mohammed of Elo-Rivera's office provide a progress report next month on the efforts to secure funds for the acquisition some of land in Chollas Triangle. Daniele will meet offline with Anisa.
 - The dedication of the Rec Center at Colina Park in honor of Portia Dawson has been delayed once again as the Parks & Rec Director has asked that at least two more community groups weigh in on support of before the entire Parks & Rec board takes up the matter. Daniele will try to meet offline with Anisa.
 - Chollas Lake CRG will meet with community June 23rd at Teen Challenge to provide updates on the North Chollas Tot Lot as well as other planned changes at the site.

- CPC May Meeting – Lynn
 - CPC Chair made a moving tribute to Laura Ribeau and a clip of which has been posted on our YouTube channel.
 - CPG Priority for CPUs Ad Hoc Subcommittee was dissolved as their mission was accomplished.

For the Good of the Order and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.